

The **SOUTHEAST NEWS**

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Volume 2 - Number 3

DECEMBER, 1953



Alabama Conference

The Alabama Conference was held at the Antioch Church, Andalusia, Ala., October 27-28. The Assistant Moderator, the Rev. Carolyn Welch, presided in the absence of the Moderator, Harry Barr.

The Rev. Collie Seymour served as Chaplain for the Conference, with the theme "The History of the Congregational Christian Churches".

The main item of business was to decide the destiny of the Alabama Conference. After much discussion it was decided, and voted, that the Conference be retained as a fellowship and inspirational meeting with no delegates, and be held in the spring of the year.

The Rev. Lowell Smoot reported on the Church Building Loan Fund, saying we have done a good job but there is still work to be done if we are to meet our Convention goal of \$30,000.

A very inspirational message on Stewardship was given by Dr. Nelson C. Dreier; and the Rev. Joe A. French gave an informative talk on Evangelism. Mrs. Peter Doherty reported on her recent trip to Scotland, Ireland and the I.C.C. meeting in Scotland.

Officers elected for the coming year were: Moderator, Rev. Lowell A. Smoot; Assistant Moderator, Rev. Carolyn Welch; Secretary, Mrs. Jettie Logan. The following delegates and alternates were elected for the General Council East Association—Odell Yancy (D), Rev. Joe A. French (D), Rev. A. C. Nelson (A), Mrs. Lowell Smoot (A), Rev. Goff Bedford (A); Central Association—Mrs. Jettie Logan (D), Rev. Carolyn Welch (A); North Association—Rev. Robt. Shelton (D), Rev. Annie Campbell (A); South Association—Rev. Hugh Lasseter (D), Miss Dora Brackin (A), and Rev. N. A. Long (D). This makes a total of six delegates and six alternates for the state.

—Jettie Logan, Scribe

Georgia Conference

A record attendance by delegates and visitors was established at the Georgia Conference meeting, held this year at the United Church of Columbus, Ga., on October 21-22. The Moderator, Richard Drake, presided and Dr. D. W. Shepherd served as Chaplain.

Featured speakers were the Rev. John Dollar; the Rev. Edward Driscoll, Director of the Georgia Council of Churches; the Rev. Clarence Bennett and Dr. A. R. Van Cleave from Southern Union College; and Superintendent Erston M. Butterfield.

The main business before the Conference was the adoption of the new Constitution.

The Rev. W. C. Carpenter spoke on the Gideon Club of Church Builders, explaining the purpose and urging interested persons to join.

The Every Member Canvass skit written by the Rev. Carolyn Welch was directed by the Rev. John Pickens and enjoyed by those present.

A very impressive service for the recognition of ordained and licensed ministers, as arranged by the Committee on Ministerial Standing of the Georgia Conference, was led by Dr. Thos. Anderson with Dr. James Fraser and Dr. D. W. Shepherd assisting.

Kentucky-Tennessee Conference

With encouraging reports of progress coming from nearly all the member churches the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference held what many have termed their best conference in years at the Community Church of Stearns, Ky., on October 24-25.

One of the highlights of the Conference was a very encouraging report on the work of the Southeast Convention by our beloved Superintendent, the Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, in which he predicted great things in the immediate future for the churches of the Southeast Convention. This report seemed to keynote the entire program, for the delegates left for their homes at the conclusion of the Conference with the feeling that not only are "Better days a-coming" but better days are here.

The Rev. Carolyn Welch, pastor of the Thorsby, Ala., Church, directed her skit on the Every Member Canvass and it was thoroughly enjoyed. It's message will be carried back to the churches of the conference.

The Rev. Kendrick Grobel Professor of Religion of Vanderbilt University School of Religion served as Chaplain of the Conference and his inspirational talks and worship direction were up to his usual high standard.

Officers elected for the coming year were: Moderator, Rev. Geo. S. Hunt; Vice Moderator, Rev. Charles Drake; Scribe, Walter T. Wood, Jr.; Treasurer, C. B. Smith; Dean of Summer Conference, Rev. Arnold Slater; Delegate to General Council, Walter T. Wood, Jr.; Alternate delegate, Emerson P. Poste; and Member at large of the Southeast Convention Board of Directors, Mrs. Arnold Slater.

The host church, ably directed by the Rev. George S. Hunt, left no stone unturned in making the stay of the delegates and visitors as pleasant as could be. A turkey dinner Saturday night was certainly one to be long remembered as was a report given by Miss Heermans of her trip to Scotland to the International Council Meeting there.

—Walter T. Wood, Jr.

Gideon Club Trustees Meet

On Wednesday afternoon, November 18, the Board of Trustees of the Gideon Club of Church Builders met at First Church, Douglas, Ga., with the president, Lester Shaw, presiding.

The secretary, the Rev. W. C. Carpenter reported that the total membership is now 293 with \$1,425 received in pledges.

As a means of promoting the Church Builders Club, it was planned that a series of institutes would be held, with the entertaining church providing a fellowship supper. Also Trustees of the club would go out in groups of at least two to any church which invited them and would tell the story of the Gideon Club of Church Builders. It is hoped by this means to raise the membership to the goal of 1,000.

Have YOU joined yet

Convention \$3,000 From Meeting CBLF

At the Board of Directors' meeting November 10th, the Rev. Lowell A. Smoot, Moderator Elect of the Southeast Convention and chairman of the CBLF Campaign, reported that all indications are that the church of the Convention, when all final pledges are in, will fall short by \$3,000 of meeting the goal of \$30,000.

The Board expressed its concern, and voted that a letter should go out to all churches urging that if possible they increase their goals so as to make up the \$3,000. Ministers and churches are urged to consider this matter.

* * *

Letter from Dr. Stauffacher

Good Friends,

I have recently sat in on discussions on the Church Building Loan Fund with groups of leaders in 21 of our Conferences.

As we survey the situation it becomes increasingly apparent that in many of our Conferences a considerable amount will need to be raised in individual and special gifts if the goal of the Conference is to be reached. The time is short. There is a strong belief that the money is there. Individuals as well as churches do respond when they hear the story. But always bafflement arises over how we are to get the job done.

I was reading my New Testament the other morning and came upon a message that throws much light on this problem. It is in Luke 10:1-24.

The Master faced a situation not unlike ours. The time came when he saw that "The harvest is abundant, but the reapers are very few". Just our situation.

What did He do? He called "72 others" in addition to the 12. He knew that 12 were not enough and He multiplied the number. He asked the 72 to do two things: 1) to pray "to the owner of the harvest to send reapers to gather it". And they were to be in large measure the answer to the prayer. 2) to go themselves - to go to the town and villages and tell the story. Upon those that responded they were to leave their peace. When there was no response they were to go to the next village, but under any and all circumstances to tell the story He gave them.

They went. They came back "delighted", saying that even the most difficult cases yielded when we went and spoke "in Your name".

Then the Master was "inspired with joy" and gave thanks to the Father. To the 12 He said, "Blessed are the eyes that see who you see and hear what you hear". What was it that made the Master glad and provided so singular an experience for the 12? It was that both He and they saw that the way of victory lies in men going by twos "in His name" to tell the story and gather the harvest.

My good friends, I know no other way than this one tried out and used so successfully by the Master Himself, do you? This is the way of victory. Have we the courage and will to take the time and strength to follow His way in order that the youth and life in America may have the



The Convention CBLF Committee discussing plans for raising the additional \$3,000 needed. Left to right: Mrs. Jas. Fraser, Mrs. Lowell Smoot, Rev. Peter Doherty, Rev. Lowell Smoot, Rev. Clyde C. Flannery, and Mrs. Peter Doherty.

full benefit of the church and of the Gospel proclaimed through its life and mission?

Let's call the equivalent of the "72" in our Conferences, and send them out by twos to the men and women who are able and may be willing to give over and beyond what they have already given that God's Church may be fit for its mission and our trust fulfilled.

Most thankfully and expectantly yours,

Albert D. Stauffacher, Chm.

CHURCH BUILDING LOAN FUND

Southern Union College

Southern Union is a college where a student may not only earn most of his way, if need be; but he may do so without too great sacrifice of studies or extra-curricular activities. The college's low costs and helpful work program enable most students currently to finish the year without going into debt to the college. In fact, of last year's student body only two students still have loans due to the college, and these debts are both less than \$70.

The resident student body this year is especially active in extra-curricular activities. The Student Christian Association alternates with the International Relations Club in presenting a vesper service and discussion program on Sunday evenings. An active Drama Club has already performed several one-act skits for two Friday assemblies. The Southern Union College Choir and Clee Club is developing an increasingly strong repertoire and reputation under the leadership of Mrs. Clarence Bennett. The College basketball is also providing plenty of exercise and fun for men as it searches for a winning combination. A faculty-student special programs committee has already arranged for one off-campus lyceum program and others are being planned.

—David Eddy

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office
at Atlanta, Georgia.

Published Monthly by and for the churches of the
**SOUTHEAST CONVENTION OF
CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**

673 Piedmont Avenue, N.E.

Atlanta, Ga.

ATwood 2558

Single Subscription\$1.75 per year

Group Subscriptions\$1.50 per year

STAFF

Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, Supt.Editor

Rev. C. Carl Dollar.....Director, Extension Service

Mrs. Ed. A. AlbrightRegistrar

Volume 2 - Number 3

DECEMBER, 1953

Spirit of Fear and Power Of Love

The world today is full of men and women who live scared and depressed lives just because they have no anchorage. Their mental health is close to the breaking-point. They feel inadequate for life. They have what St. Paul described as "the spirit of fear" rather than "of power and of love and of a sound mind".

Writes Dr. C. G. Zung, of his experiences in his famous clinic at Zurich:

"Among all my patients in the second half of life—that is to say, over thirty-five—there has not been one whose problem in the last resort was not that of finding a religious outlook on life. It is safe to say that every one of them fell ill because he had lost that which the living religions of every age have given their followers, and none of them has been really healed who did not regain his religious outlook. . . It seems that side by side with the decline of religious life, the neuroses grow noticeably more frequent."

**REGULAR ATTENDANCE AT CHURCH, AND
A QUIET TIME EACH DAY FOR PRAYER AND
MEDICATION WILL GIVE YOU MENTAL HEALTH
AND HAPPINESS.**

The Fourth "R"

The basic concern of the church is to bring man into a vital relationship with the living God. Life to be wholesome has to have balance. It needs to be well-rounded, not one-sided. The function of religion is not to monopolize life but to provide balance and control and sanity. This makes worship very important. In worship that is real a man is brought face to face with God. That means painstaking preparation for worship must be made. The task of the minister is in truth an awesome responsibility. He is a guide who leads people into a discovery of God or who fails his people in life's most important quest.

—Stanley U. North

The Fourth "R"

What kind of education do you want your children to have?

Dangerous elements in our society seek to stifle all that is wholesome and creative in our public school system. Their weapons are ignorance and fear and bigotry. Their rallying cry is "Back to the three R's!"

Fortunately, there are others—among them the nation's great teacher organization—who adhere to another doctrine. Their aim is the education of the whole child, for democratic living. Their tools are warmth and imagination and respect for modern techniques. For them, the traditional three R's are not enough without the fourth—human relationships. (Getting along with your neighbors.)

The three R's can produce supersonic aircraft and atomic power. But only the fourth R can produce a world in which men can survive their inventions, and turn them to humane instead of destructive ends.

A people versed solely in the three R's can be regimented and enslaved by a totalitarian state—even in the United States. Only sound human relations, based on the best principles of religion and ethics, make possible the miracle of democracy, in which individuals respect and value each other.

This is the great responsibility of the teacher—to guide our children toward a full understanding of human worth and dignity and fair play. In the teachers who hold steadfastly to this purpose lies the hope of a free world.

—from **Southern Newsletter**,

Anti-Defamation League publication

May we add that this is also the responsibility of the Church School teacher, the pastor, the Church and the family!

Suggestion for P F Program

Presbyterian young people throughout the south recently put ADL materials to work in studying rumors and how to stop them. The Sunday program dealt with the "Rumor Clinic".

The Rumor Clinic is easily put on, and it is lots of fun. All that is necessary is the ADL filmstrip of that name, a filmstrip projector, and five or six persons to serve as "reporters".

Only the first reporter sees the picture which is flashed on the screen. He then describes it to the second reporter, who in turn describes it to the third, and so on. By the time the last reporter has given his version, the description of the picture has undergone some startling changes. The audience has had a first-hand demonstration of how rumors develop, taking on all manner of distortions in the telling.

The discussion leader says: "We have seen how rumors start and spread, how they are dangerous, and some of the reasons why people indulge in them. Now we come to an important step for us as Christians. What does the Bible and our religion have to say about this problem?"

If any group is interested in this lively and valuable program, the filmstrip "Rumor Clinic" may be borrowed free, from the Southern Office of ADL, 11 Pryor St., S.W., Atlanta, Ga.



DIANE, ERSTON, ISABEL AND KATHLEEN
BUTTERFIELD



PENNY, FLORENCE, JOHN AND CARL DOLLAR

We
wish you
Merry Christmas
Health and Happiness
during this coming year.
May the Star of Bethlehem guide
you, and the love of God and Jesus
Christ enfold and sustain you through
every hour of every day. As we enjoy our
Christmas Day with our families, let us remember
the true meaning of Christmas: That God truly cares
for all mankind, that He gave His Son to suffer with us,
and that He is ready to enter any humble heart which will
Accept
Him
This
is the
true
Meaning
of
Christmas.

Me Too

PETERSEN
AN2242500
3555th Medical
Group
Perrin Air Force
Base, Texas



MONTEZ, ED AND LOLA ALBRIGHT

AN UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER

by David Eddy

How does one relate his most unforgettable summer? My itinerary doesn't indicate much—Wadley, Atlanta, Boston, Montreal, Le Havre, Paris, LeChambon-sur-Lignon, Geneve, Paris, NYC. A list of institutions visited, of work seen, or even of friends met wouldn't tell the story.

Perhaps I should warn the unsuspecting reader before going any further, that my trip could hardly be repeated by everyone, since I had the extraordinary luck to become engaged to a French girl and thus got to spend quite a little time with at least one French family. Delightful as it would be to recount these experiences, I suspect the editor had something else in mind in asking me to write about my summer abroad.

Instead of attempting a dull summary in general, however, I shall briefly sketch just four particular scenes I shall not soon forget. The first was a small gathering in the living room of the Fellowship Center at LeChambon, where in the Hugenot area of south central France lives our representative in the Mission of Fellowship, the Rev. Howard Schomer.



The Church at Le Chambon was organized in 1527. Our Congregational Mission of Fellowship representative, Rev. Howard Schomer, is one of the four pastors currently serving the 2,500 members.

The group included a dozen American Congregationalists, most of whom had been at the St. Andrews conference in Scotland, and were surveying conditions and Congregational projects on the Continent. The speaker was Pastor Edouard Theis, co-founder and present director of Le College Cevenol. In the simple, almost shy way in which this big, six foot former missionary to Madagascar and father of eight daughters speaks, Pastor Theis told the moving story of the College Cevenol. From its founding in 1938 this College of 300 students at the foot of the Cevennes mountains has provided, especially but not exclusively for Protestant youth, the only liberal ecumenically Christian educational center in all of Latin Europe. Hearing again that evening of the early struggles and more recent progress of College Cevenol, I was proud of the significant part played by Congregational agencies, representatives, and support.

Another evening I shall not soon forget was toward the end of my month's stay at Le Chambon. Some of my time there, I spent with the youngsters in the international Work Camp. (Incidentally, the very first Church-sponsored work camp in Europe was at College Cevenol in 1946 and my fiancée was a camper.) This work camp of about 35 this summer dug and laid several hundred yards of sewer for the College and helped on a cooperative housing project. This evening there was hearty singing as always, and fresh blueberry pie for someone's birthday. Youthful, sun-tanned faces lighted up at the favorite stunts of a half dozen nations. Then before they went to their tents for a few hours sleep before another strenuous day, they gathered quietly for the daily culte (service). That evening it was movingly led by an American with a southern accent and full red beard, and the translation into French was given by an African camper from a French colony.

Equally memorable were the Sunday morning services in the LeChambon Church, a Reformed Church dating from 1527. My French wasn't ade-

(Please turn to page 12)



College Cevenol's New Classroom Building in use this Fall is furnished with desks and chairs made in good part by student and faculty volunteers.

A CIRCLE TOUR

by Annie R. Campbell

Have you ever started to a conference a day early and then arrived late? That is what we did. It is some little jaunt from Garden City to Andalusia, where the Alabama State Conference was held this year. My delegates, Mrs. Edd Fanning, Mrs. Oscar Knighten, Mrs. Gus Kretzschmar and I started out rather early Monday morning. We had decided to add just a few miles to our trip and visit our educational institutions and other places of note along the way.

Our first stop was Talladega College. Our denomination started this college quite some years ago when there were no institutions of higher learning for Negroes. It was a pioneering venture. Talladega is a Liberal Arts College which also gives pre-med and pre-law courses. The Business Manager, Mr. Henry Owens, showed us around the campus. We were most interested in the Savery Library, not only because of its many volumes and service to the community and its bookmobile, but for the murals in the entrance room. There were life size pictures on one side about the *Amistad*, the ship on which some slaves mutinied against their Spanish captors, but finally gained their freedom through a New Haven court decision and were returned to Africa. On the other side the pictures showed the opening days of school when Talladega was first established, with students bringing produce to help pay for their tuition.

Our next stop was Southern Union College at Wadley. As I had been there so many times before, my main concern was to see the new addition to the president's family, little Jennifer Flannery. Of course most of you have visited there and know of the splendid training this Junior College gives at a very low cost, especially to students interested in religious training.

Tuesday we visited Tuskegee. What impressed us most was the Carver Museum where Dr. George



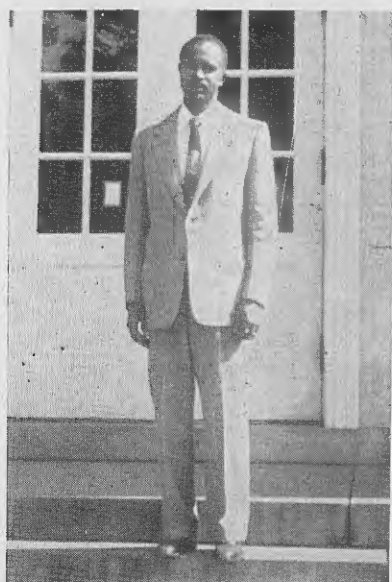
COTTON VALLEY SCHOOL

Washington Carver, the great scientist and humble Negro Christian, experimented in producing things from the peanut and the sweet potato. We went into the chapel to see the singing windows portraying the spirituals. On this large campus, nearly 2000 students learn everything from making shoes to veterinary medicine. (Before leaving I managed to sprain my ankle.)

We rode twelve miles south of Tuskegee, on highway 29, and came to Cotton Valley School. We arrived around noon when the children were all on the playground, nearly 200 Negro children in the first eight grades. Miss Julia Johnson, the able and attractive principal, greeted us and showed us around; but first she found that we had not eaten and so saw that we shared their school lunch. This school reaches out into the community. The boy's workshop is used as a furniture clinic for adults to mend their own furniture. The books serve as a community library. A health clinic is held regularly.

Miss Johnson trains the Sunday School teach-

(Please turn to page 10)



HENRY OWENS - Talladega



MISS JENKINS - Thorsby Inst.

Church News

The **Circular Church**, of Charleston, S.C., has added six new members during October, bringing the present membership up to 159 as compared to 66 two years ago. Eleven new pupils were enrolled in the Church School.

The Clergy Society, composed of men only and organized in 1789 to care for the aged ministers of the church, their widows and orphans, held its 164th Annual Meeting on November 4th and re-elected J. J. Sellers as president and Raymond Kessler as treasurer; also William Neese as vice-president and Richard Britton as secretary. This is the oldest society of this nature in the United States.

William H. Bender heads the new Men's Club with Dr. William Johnson as vice president and Jack McClure as secretary-treasurer. Mr. and Mrs. Bender are widely known in the musical and dramatic circles of Charleston and are soloists in the church choir.

Kenneth Parsons of Unionville, Conn., and end on the football team, is the president of The Citadel Congregational Club. While there are only twelve Congregational students in The Citadel, the Club meets each week for fellowship and for discussions.

The Rev. Mr. Bedford, pastor of Circular, was the chapel preacher at The Citadel on November 1st.

* * *

The **Center Church** of Atlanta, Ga., wishes each and every one a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our church is progressing under the leadership of our pastor, the Rev. Henry Weaver.

The Men's Fellowship took as one of their projects the installation of the gas furnace in the church and have done a fine job.

We also voted to send the Gideon Club \$10 to help with expenses. On November 6 eight of our men joined the Gideon Club. We are looking forward with great anticipation to having Supt. Butterfield as our guest speaker at our meeting on December 11th.

The Women's Fellowship had a chicken supper November 24, with all proceeds going to pay for material for installing the furnace. The women are making small baskets filled with candy and fruit to take to the children at Grady Hospital in Atlanta.

The Sunday School, Women's and Men's fellowships are combining their efforts to start their Christmas Program early and are looking forward to having a really fine program this year.

We sincerely covet the prayers of all who know the Lord that our church and our fellowships may go forward and be a blessing to our community, and especially to the upbuilding of the Kingdom of God.

—Fred Haley, reporter

* * *

The Rev. Carl Dollar has been conducting a Stewardship Institute at **Garden City Church**, assisted by the pastor, the Rev. Annie Campbell.

He preached to an appreciative congregation on November 15. That evening the Pilgrim Fellowship presented the play reading about the Every Member Canvass. This was followed by a showing of "The Hidden Heart". Services followed each night through Thursday.

The church formed and adopted its budget for the year.

—Annie Campbell, pastor

* * *

The **Hanceville Mountain Grove Church** held its Annual Meeting in October, with officers elected as follows: Phillip Armstrong, Treasurer; J. D. Vansant, Jr., Chm. Board of Deacons; Claude Lee, Chm. Board of Trustees; and Mrs. Earl Clark, Chm. Board of Deaconesses.

Re-elected were: Lee Allred, S. S. Supt.; Mrs. Edd Clark, Clerk; and the pastor, the Rev. Guy L. Colbert, at an increase in salary.

The Rev. Colbert is attending Vanderbilt University this year, and fine reports of his work there have been received.

—Guy L. Colbert, pastor

* * *

The **Richland Church** honored the Rev. W. C. Carpenter on his last appointment by giving him a covered dish supper at our Workers Council meeting. The table was beautifully decorated with a lovely cake in green and white containing a little white church on top with two angels sitting outside. This cake was donated by friends.



Rev. W. C. Carpenter

The Rev. Carpenter has been our pastor for seven years. We are sorry to lose him, but wish him well in his new work.

We have called the Rev. S. M. Penn to serve us along with Providence Chapel.

The church has a new bulletin board and we are also putting signs on the highway inviting visitors to our church.

—Mrs. W. J. Abell, reporter

The **Hunt Memorial Church** of Alexander City is anticipating much progress under the able leadership of the Rev. M. O. Worley, who moved to the field in October, with his wife, daughter and step-son.

Mr. Worley came to Alexander City from the East Tallassee Mt. Olive Church and Watson Chapel Churches. While he was at Mt. Olive, the church built additional Sunday School rooms and a parsonage.

The W.M.U. of the church met and elected new officers. The group has been working on a Friendly Service project and last week made up clothes and groceries for two needy families in Alexander City.

—Mrs. James Cumbee, reporter

* * *

The **Highway Church** at Huguley is making much progress under the leadership of the Rev. A. C. Nelson. Recently the church sign was repainted and improved, and an inside bulletin board of all services of the church was added.

The Sunday School has grown in membership to 83, and we have set 108 members as our goal. With God's help may we reach it soon.

The church has voted to build a garage and laundry house at the parsonage and construction is to be started soon.

—Noel Allen, reporter

* * *

The Laymen's Association of the **United Church** of Phenix City is working with much enthusiasm in getting the Sunday School building completed. In addition to labor donated by members, they sponsored a barbecue supper on November 7th, clearing \$520. This sum is to be used for additional materials needed to complete the building.

The Women's Christian Service Club gave a Harvest Festival on October 27, using the Hallowe'en theme and form of Bazaar. All families and friends of the church were entertained. Booths were set up for pies and cakes, country store, fish pond, candy apples and pop corn, and hot dogs. A movie was shown as entertainment. Proceeds from the Bazaar amounted to \$87.08.

On November 11 the members of the W.C.S. were entertained at a party held in the Phenix City Recreation Center. This was the yearly party at which each member revealed her secret service pal and drew names for the next year.

The table was beautifully decorated with a lace cloth and an arrangement of chrysanthemums. Baskets of autumn leaves were placed throughout the room.

Those attending were Mrs. Willene Edwards, Mrs. Elsie Edwards, Mrs. Mary Margaret Smoot, Mrs. Vernelle Riddle, Mrs. Marguerite Mattocks, Mrs. Louise Rogers, Mrs. Nancy Blanton, Mrs. Harveta Barr, Mrs. Jenny Powers, Mrs. Winnie Lou Phillips, Mrs. Kate Brown, Mrs. Clara Weaver, Mrs. Earline Weaver, Miss Joyce Blanton, Miss Patsy Weaver and Miss Modena Weaver.

—Paralee Hill, Reporter

* * *

On November 18 the **Blackwood Church** of Headland, Ala., had a very enthusiastic group at our Women's Fellowship meeting. The program was on the theme of Thanksgiving. Seventeen

were present. During the month we have quilted and sold a quilt and are well on our way to selling 50 boxes of Christmas cards.

New officers elected for the coming year are: President, Mrs. Pera Kennedy; Vice President, Mrs. Pastora Rister; Secretary, Miss Dora Brackin; Treasurer, Mrs. Mildred Johnson; Friendly Service Chairman, Mrs. Pearla Ward; Program Chairman, Mrs. Pastora Rister; Entertainment Chairman, Mrs. Velma Faison; and Social Service Chairman, Mrs. Lois Rister.

—Miss Dora Brackin, Reporter

* * *

On November 10, the movie "Again Pioneers", a story of migrant workers, was the feature of the quarterly Fellowship meeting held at the **Crossville First Church**. The evening meal was covered dish prepared with Mr. and Mrs. Edwin A. Reed and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Conway as Host and Hostesses.

The Christmas copy of "Ideals" arrived; 50 copies have been ordered for distribution by the Ladies' Guild.

—Crossville Chronical

* * *

Dr. Paul A. Reynolds preached at **Pleasant Hill Church** on November 22, and stayed for the Every Member Canvass week. The church has called the Rev. Gustave Ferre' to take charge of regular services until the arrival of Dr. Paul Reynolds the first of March.

—Viola Cunningham

* * *

The **Williams Chapel Church** of Waycross, Ga., held its Annual Meeting October 5 with a large attendance. All groups of the different organizations gave good reports. Our treasurer reported that the budget had been met with all bills paid and a substantial balance on hand. We heartily recommend the Every Member Canvass to any church to meet the church budget.

We are happy to announce that we are holding regular church services each Sunday morning and evening with good attendance, despite the fact that at present we are without a pastor. Thanks to our Deacons good work our pulpit is filled each Sunday. Our Sunday School is growing; also our mid-week prayer service. We have a very active Men's Fellowship which meets once each month for a supper and fellowship.

While our parsonage is vacant, we have had an opportunity to paint and refinish the inside, the work being done by the men, women and young people of the church. We have an active Pilgrim's Fellowship. Their Hallowe'en Party was a wonderful success. We also have an active women's group which meets each month for a regular meeting and again monthly for a work day, making and mending clothes and packing boxes for the needy. Occasionally the ladies have a quilting, with everyone bringing a covered dish for the noon meal.

We feel that our activities prove that the more we get together the happier we are and will be.

—Mrs. E. P. Wides, Reporter

* * *

The **Forest Home Church**, under the able lead-

ership of its pastor, the Rev. Olin Sheppard, has had a very successful year.

There was good attendance and much interest shown during the revival meeting and two new members were added.

In cooperation with the Women's Fellowship, much has been done to improve the building. The church has a new floor, new pulpit furniture, gas heat installed, fifty new hymnals, a new rug, new runners, and new shades.

The entire community is showing increasing interest in our progress.

—Lee Smith, reporter

* * *

The Ladies' Aid of the **Union Hill Church** met at the church for a program under the leadership of Mrs. Homer Boone. Several members took part in the program, which was our first on "The Purpose of the Ladies' Aid".

After the minutes were read, a short business meeting was held. Sixteen ladies were present, and plans were made for the fellowship supper

First Church of Douglas, Ga., Goes Fulltime

The First Church of Douglas, Ga., with the Rev. W. C. Carpenter as pastor, has begun full-time services and a building program. This relatively new church was organized in 1950, and a parsonage was built to serve temporarily as the church. When the church has been completed, the present building will be redecorated inside and partitions put in so that it may be used as the parsonage.



Officers and pastor of the church, **L to R. sitting:** Mrs. A. R. Works, Publicity Chm.; A. R. Works, Bldg. Fund Chm.; Loyd Vickers, S.S. Supt.; the Rev. W. C. Carpenter. **Standing L to R.** Miss Vera Turner, pianist; Mrs. C. H. Hancock, Clerk; Mrs. W. A. Mitchell, Trustee; Mrs. G. E. Turner, Treasurer; G. E. Turner, Deacon; and Mrs. Loyd Vickers, Historian.

on November 4th. The meeting was dismissed by Mrs. W. L. Watson.

—Miriam Bazemore, Secretary

* * *

The Rev. Edward Knight of West Point, Ga., has accepted a unanimous call to the **First Church of Andalusia**. He began his duties November 1st and has moved his family to Andalusia. He follows the Rev. A. C. Nelson, who resigned several months ago.

—Alfred E. Adams, Reporter

Proposed C. C. Tours for 1954

Jan. 4-14 **PUERTO RICO (AMA)**

Means of travel - by air; Cost \$225

Write Rev. Howard Spragg, 287 Fourth Ave., N. Y.

Mar. 1-Apr. 29 **AROUND THE WORLD**

Means of Travel - by air; Est. Cost \$3,900.

Write John Rosengrant, 156 Fifth Ave., N. Y.

Apr. 19-May 5 **EASTERN AND SOUTHERN USA**

Means of Travel - by Greyhound Bus from N. Y.

Estimated Cost \$135 to \$160.

Write Rev. Ralph R. Shrader, 14 Beacon St., Boston 8, Mass.

Apr. 19-May 3 **MIDWEST AND SOUTHERN USA**

Means of Travel - Private car or bus.

Est. cost - from 135 to \$155.

Write Miss Ione Catton, 19 So. LaSalle St., Chicago, Illinois.

Apr. 21-May 21 **HAWAII, JAPAN, THE PHILIPPINES**

Means of Travel - by air; Cost \$1,990.

Write Dr. Ralph Shrader, 14 Beacon St., Boston.

July and August **AFRICA**

Means of Travel - by air.

Write Dr. Emory Ross, 1790 Broadway, N. Y.

June 30-Aug. 13 **INDIA AND PAKISTAN**

Means of Travel - by air.

Cost \$2,250.

Write Rev. Quentin Leisher, Boston, Mass.

May 15 - June 20 **EUROPE AND NEAR EAST**

Means of Travel - by air and train.

Estimated cost \$1,500.

Write Rev. Herman Reissig, 289 Fourth Ave., N. Y.

A Circle Tour

(From page 7)

ers. This school is one of the projects for our Alabama Women's Fellowship.

Yes, we finally arrived at the conference, delayed by my sprained ankle and our sight-seeing. We were well impressed with the fine new brick church at which it was held. (Andalusia, Antioch) On our return we stopped to look at the state house at Montgomery and of course we visited Thorsby Institute with which I am sure everyone is familiar. It is a private high school of very high standards.

Finally, back to Garden City and reports to our Women's Fellowship.

Circle completed!

A Meditation for Christmas Time

"There Was A Journey In The Days Of Herod The King"

by Thomas Anderson

There was a journey in the days of Herod the King which was a mild affair when compared to other journeys made by men, both before and after, over vast distances, in arctic wastes, up steep slopes, in the far reaches of space, on the surface and under the waters of the seas; where great dangers lurked; complicated equipment was needed; tremendous physical strength was essential, and enormous moral stamina was demanded.

But none of the journeys made by men since time began has captured people's hearts so fully nor remained of such steady interest to mankind as that comparatively little journey by Gaspar of India, Melchior of Chaldea, and Balthasar of Persia, over the well-known trade routes from their respective countries to Jerusalem and then to Bethlehem in Judea.

I want to make a few observations about it which may set our thinking in such a way that when the anniversary comes of that time when the shepherds wondered, the Magi paid homage and Mary said, "His name is Jesus", it will not find us unaware of its far-reaching implications.

Time has proven that the only journey in the world really worth making is a spiritual replica of that one undertaken by the Magi in the days of Herod the King, from where we are to where He is whose moral and spiritual perfection shone with such a magnificence during His earthly days and does yet shine with such unabating lustre even though a vast number of generations have come and gone.

But where are we? Well, we are in a Persia too, for that world called Persia in the time of the Magi was a world of tradesmen and weavers and manufacturers and merchants. It was a world of goods and things and sensual pleasures and buying and selling. Persia has stood and does yet stand in history as a symbol of materialism. And we are in such a world and it is an oppressive world, often stifling the soul, impoverishing the heart and corrupting the mind.

And then we are in a Chaldea too, for that was a place of quarrels and conflicts and armies and war and pain and bloodshed and foolish waste of men and goods, which tore the structure of goodwill down, and set man against man and debauched the home and bred hate and nourished distrust until no one was safe and everyone was afraid.

And we are in an India also, for that was a world of intrigue and mystery and unanswered questions and soothsayers and manipulators and incantations and dishonest ones who claimed to be holy men but who went about draining the resources of their fellow men for transient purposes and enlisting them in hollow causes.

But where is Bethlehem in our day and time? It is not an especial difficulty to find it. It

has not changed in characteristics. It is in the now of life where things happen such as happened in that Bethlehem of ages past.

It is where thoughtless men are granting their hospitality to those with enough money or social prestige, or orders for good, or political power to make that hospitality profitable, with the result that so many who are in need of comfort and help, as Mary and Joseph were, are turned away to fend for themselves in the dark alone. Where men are blinded to the needs of homeless little children by too much looking at good and gold there is Bethlehem in the modern world.

For us of today it is there where goodwill and international friendship stand begging for admission at the doors of the smoke-filled rooms of undeserved luxury in political inns and are, by sinful men, assigned to a barn.

Bethlehem in the modern world is there where one finds the humble places, on the edges of life, where the plans and means for the achievement of world brotherhood have been sent by ignorance and greed while these and lust and foolish trust in mortal power pre-empt the house of life.

It is there where peace struggles for life, as a newborn child struggles for life, and where its Prince waits to be crowned ruler of all men and nations.

Let no one under-estimate the demands of the journey from his Persia of materialism, his Chaldea of conflict, his India of superstition, a king - a king whose rule would begin with himself and would not become corrupted by the power possessed.

Searching for a king three kings from the Eastern mountains found a king that was a king indeed. But when they found him, he was lying in a manger surrounded by poor shepherds and lowing cattle in a stable. It is a marvelous thing that they recognized him as king, for as you know there was nothing there that was characteristic of the birthplace of kings. Of course they were wise, intelligent men and such men do not make their judgments by outer appearances.

The fact is that no intelligent man can fail to recognize Him as the only real king there is, for there is an unimpeachable record in history that He possessed boundless power but did not abuse it ever; that He was complete in mastery over His own life; that His righteousness was uncorrupted, and that His respect for the sacredness of human personality was unwavering and eternally secure. No statement anywhere in history is more fully freighted with truth than this - "Unto you a King is born".

If anyone anywhere should doubt the claims about the way of His birth and, therefore, about his being provided by God to meet men's needs for a king that was a real king, there is the

673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

record of His life which is unimpeachable evidence that through unmarred virtues, mastery of His own life, constancy of morality, righteous to where morality and forgiveness and practical mercy are so greatly needed, and that is where Christ the King is, and that is Bethlehem in our day and time.

Now observe that there was a journey in the days of Herod of King, by three other kings, to find a king. Kings all around and yet a search for a king by kings - what a strange thing. But wait - when you think of it, this is not such a strange thing, for while there were those called kings everywhere, there was not a king really, anywhere. Men possessed political power but lacked the virtues making one in a king's place to be a king. The very power they had obtained through inheritance or conquest and corrupted them and was abused by them and it is written: "The highest proof of virtue is to possess boundless power without abusing it".

There were men who ruled the nations and the cities and the people but could not rule themselves, and all such who may be called kings are not kings really. There were people on thrones who were masters of subjects' lives, but there was none who was master of his own passions. There were monarchs over others, but they were not monarchs of their own lives, sufficiently at least to keep them righteous and pure and good.

Yes, there were those called kings in India and Persia and Chaldea and Judea and Rome, but not a king really anywhere - and men must have use of power, and respect for human personality. He became king and does yet remain the only real king there is - to whom history has shown conclusively that men and nations can give their allegiance without fear that they will find one day that his morality will fail or that his boundless powers will be abused, or that his feet, while seeming to be of brass, are of clay.

There was a journey in the days of Herod the King, at the climax of which three kings swore allegiance to a king, the only real king for men of earth there has ever been, is now, or ever shall be.

They were wise men who swore that allegiance then and all truly wise men do it now. And the way of swearing that allegiance now is by standing up with those who make their vows of loyalty to Him and manifest the sincerity of those vows by becoming members of an organized expression of His Kingdom which is the Church.

National Council of Churches

The National Council of Churches, which is a fellowship of thirty national denominations with 35,000,000 members, has written to request the support from our churches for the program of the National Council of Churches.

Those of you who are members of the United Church Women or United Church Men, know of the work of this Council. Just to name a few of the united projects, the National Council of Churches published the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, directed community-wide "Bible observances", helps in the resettlement of displaced persons, holds preaching missions among youth in the armed forces, presents Christian messages on all radio and television networks, provides a "ministry-on-wheels" to migrant workers from Florida and the Rio Grande to Canada, teaches illiterates around the world, prepares missionary education and Sunday school lesson outlines and textbooks, supplies chaplains on an interdenominational basis in hospitals and prisons, promotes the World Day of Prayer and many other projects to improve relations between races and nations.

At the November 10 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention, this request for support was considered, and the following recommendation made: That this matter be given publicity in the magazine and churches urged to put this project in their new budgets."

An Unforgettable Summer

(From page 6)

quate to follow the fine print of the sermons; but the hymns and traditional chants, often in minor keys, as they resounded through that crowded, bare, stone sanctuary were unforgettable.

A final scene—before the Editor wields his shears—on the student ship coming home: A band of American work campers reporting their experiences and conclusions. They represented camps as separate as one in northern Finland where the campers followed the local custom of taking steam baths twice a week, to a camp in southern Italy where work started at 5:30 in the morning to avoid the scorching heat of mid-day. They were a tougher, wiser bunch of young Americans than had gone over to Europe in June; they were a group it was good to know.

Ministers and Church Clerks

Please fill in the Year Book Blanks
and return them to the Convention
Office by January 11, 1954

In order to be counted in this year's report, all apportionment and per capita dues must be in the Convention office by January 3, 1954.